

LAND BANK BILL WILL AID MISSOURI FARMERS TO HELP FEED EUROPE

No Matter What U. S. Government Does in Extending Rural Credits, Gardner Bill Is First Measure—The More the Better—Agricultural Classes in This State Alone Could Use Hundreds of Millions of Dollars, at Low Interest Rates, in Developing Farm Resources.

By OMAR D. GRAY.

When Col. Fred D. Gardner began work on his land bank bill, nearly four years ago, no one foresaw the great European war at this time. Though legislation for the relief of the farmer by enabling him to borrow money at reasonable rates has been needed all along, such a measure is doubly needed at this time when America must be the great storehouse of the world for years to come.

Missouri must do its share. Ours is the first state in the Union to project a land bank. The Gardner bill, passed by the Forty-eighth General Assembly of Missouri, is to be voted on under the initiative and referendum in November, in order to settle all questions of constitutionality and avoid court suits. The law is to become effective the first of December of this year, and in all probability ours will be the first land bank in operation in this country.

You will notice that our federal government is preparing to establish 12 banks in various parts of the United States to extend rural credits. Good! We need all we can get. Several hundred million dollars could be used to advantage right here in Missouri. Our farmers need a state land bank and also would welcome the chance to borrow from Uncle Sam. Look at the Ozarks! It's the best stock, poultry and fruit country in the world and virtually is undeveloped!

Look at the thousands of acres of uncultivated lands in all parts of our state, and thousands of other acres where attempts are made to grow crops but are poor from the lack of fertilizer and use of good machinery.

An Example in Congress.

It was pleasing to read how Speaker Clark got down from his rostrum a few days ago and took the floor in behalf of rural credits, using arguments such as Col. Gardner and other Missourians have used for years. There's no question about the need of land banks, nor the soundness of the plan, when, as has been proven by experience, European farmers have been using twenty-five billion dollars at between 3 and 4 per cent interest, and have increased their exports of food supplies while ours decreased.

There's no question about the safety of the Gardner measure. We can lend money to farmers at 4 1/2 per cent on long time, let them pay a little each year on the principal and through the sale of bonds put to work many millions of dollars. The bonds will be the safest investment on earth, being secured by the land appraised at half its cash value. The state, in lending the bank a million dollars as working capital, will be fully protected. In time the reserve fund of one-half of 1 per cent, paid by the borrowers, will refund the million to the state, and it will have cost the taxpayers nothing. Just think of it!

From a German Banker.

Returning to the subject of Europe, Herr Gewinner, president of the Deutsche Bank of Berlin, told Col. Gardner:

"I told an American railroad president that American exports of manufactured articles were not your trouble. (This was before the war.) This is growing and will grow fast enough. What you require is development of your agricultural resources. Food is what the world wants and must have, and the supply is short. You must give your people better educational advantages, and you must give them cheap capital.

"If you had good machinery for rural credits your land bank debentures (bonds) would sell anywhere at as good rates as your government bonds."

Report From Great Britain.

A remarkable report on agricultural credit recently was prepared and submitted to the British government by a large commission of bankers, farmers, merchants and laborers—men from all walks of life. This report had much to do with the back-to-the-farm movement and the agitation for a law to tax all uncultivated land at a premium. The report says, in part:

"We shall in the course of our report give our reasons for believing that much improvement can be effected (through land banks) in rural credits WITHOUT IN ANY WAY COMPETING WITH EXISTING BANKS.

"Closely connected with the subject of rural credit and capital for the

rural classes is the important subject of the encouragement of thrift. These indeed are connected as supply and demand. The chief function of credit is to enable the person making use of it without any immediate return of capital for a period mutually agreed upon.

"There must be a good reason for a comparative failure of agriculture.

"An industry which is yearly suffering from severe competition should utilize more fully the credit which is so readily available for any other productive enterprises."

Facts From France.

Myron T. Herrick, a noted banker, when Ambassador to France, studied farm credits, and he says: "The machinery for credit in the United States is defective and inadequate from the point of view of agriculture. There are no means whatever for granting long-time loans. Farmers cannot afford to tie up their money for a long term in the mortgages of neighbors. There are no arrangements, except in a few special cases, for promoting the movement of the people back to the land.

"The prime object is to create a system whereby the farmers may use their savings as circulatory and working capital, and obtain from the general public all the other funds needed for improvements."

You will recall that the United States sent a commission of 100 members abroad to study farm credits. Here is a brief extract of most important points in their report:

American Commission's Report.

"What the country wants is not so much increase in price as increase in productivity of its farm lands. Farm credit, therefore, should be productive and provident."

Here let me remark, in parenthesis, that this point is covered by the Gardner Land Bank Bill. Loans will not be made for speculation. The law provided that the money borrowed must be used for paying off prior liens or incumbrances, thus reducing the interest rates under the old usurious system, and the balance to IMPROVE THE FARMS. To continue with the American Commission's report:

"Rural credit is not the same as urban or city credit. Farm credit calls for special attention and special institutions. Agricultural credit in the greater part of Europe ranks higher than commercial credit.

"Land mortgage credits rank higher than industrial credit. Saving and trust funds are freely invested in farm mortgages.

"Land mortgages are always repaid on the amortization (easy yearly payment) plan." (The same as in the Gardner bill.)

"The rapid increase in tenantry in the United States is becoming an alarming condition. It makes poor farm practice, poor farm business and poor farm community.

"European credit is based on the land mortgage bond. It is not based on one man's farm, but on the farms of many. This bond is bought and sold in the market like government bonds."

IT IS UPON SUCH FACTS THAT COL. GARDNER WORKED AND CONGRESS NOW IS WORKING. That our Missouri legislators passed the Gardner bill is a credit to them. And doubtless our people will ratify the measure and thus make MISSOURI THE FIRST STATE TO AID THE FARMER WITH MONEY AT LOW INTEREST RATES AND ON EASY TERMS.

Yes, we need the Gardner land bank, and any further assistance our farmers may get from your Uncle Sam. It will bring prosperity to our own folks and also allow us to help feed the people of the war-stricken world.

Close to the Soil.

While Col. Fred D. Gardner was hoeing cotton and picking the big green worms off his father's tobacco patch down in Tennessee he was getting a close-to-the-soil understanding of the farmer's troubles and the farmer's problems. This knowledge of actual farm conditions and his business career since leaving the old farm down in Tennessee has given him a peculiar fitness for writing the Gardner Land Bank Law to be passed upon by the voters of Missouri this fall.

Because Jim Knows

There's at least one Hopkins man who isn't worrying in the least over who will be nominated at Chicago next week, and he is James C. Pistole, who gives it out officially that it matters not who is chosen for the real winner will be named later at St. Louis. Jim may really believe this, but we are like doubting Thomas in the matter.—Hopkins Journal.

WRITHED IN AGONY

Vermont Republicans Threw a Few Fits Over the Weak, Vacillating Incompetent Democratic Party

Vermont Republicans in convention assembled writhed in anguish over the "weak, vacillating incompetent Democratic party."—Associated Press.

The "weak, vacillating, incompetent Democratic party" is the party that enacted the greatest banking and currency law the country ever had after the Republican party had failed at the job; the party that reformed the tariff after the Republican party had muddled the work; that created a trade commission after the Republican party shirked its duty; that has doubled the size of the United States army and made provision for general military training; that has framed the greatest navy bill in the history of the country; that is preparing to take the tariff completely out of partisan politics and to rehabilitate the merchant marine; that has kept the United States out of war and maintained the honor of the nation by the processes of peace.

The "weak, vacillating, incompetent Democratic party" has done more for the country in three years than the Republican party did in sixteen years of continuous power. It is a record for which the Republican party has no parallel since the Civil war.

OWNED IN ST. JOSEPH

The Granby Company the Property of One of the Big St. Joseph Estates

St. Louis, June 5.—The Granby Mining and Smelting company, which has large mineral holdings in the Joplin, Mo., district and in Arkansas, owns coal lands in Illinois and gas lands in Kansas, and operates smelters in Kansas, Missouri and Illinois, was sold today to Henry S. Kimball and associates for \$7,500,000. The purchasers own the American Zinc, Lead and Smelting Company.

The Granby Mining and Smelting company is one of the largest in the state of Missouri, and was financed by St. Joseph capital. The great organization was largely owned by an estate of which Mr. Lewis C. Burnes, president of the Burnes National bank, is the titular and executive head.

Republican Editor Bolts Swanger

The Republican state delegates to the Chicago convention met recently at St. Louis and elected Otto Stifel, a millionaire St. Louis brewer, as chairman of the delegation, thus turning down a man of national reputation and putting in his place a representative of the "corrupt interests." There has been talk among the leaders of the party about carrying the state for the Republicans, but to our mind that hope has gone glimmering. The "drys" among the Republicans will hardly support a party ticket, put out by so prominent a "wet" as Otto Stifel and his crowd.—Elmo (Rep.) Register.

Why Didn't Teddy Act?

Miss Stone was captured in Turkey by Turkish subjects. She was kept six months in Turkey, and money raised by benevolent people was paid for her in Turkey, and she was released in Turkey. What did Bombastes Furioso Roosevelt do in the six months Miss Stone was captive, or the ensuing seven years that he was president, to make Turkey protect Miss Stone or to penalize Turkey for its refusal, or its inability?—Albany Ledger.

Another Republican Refuses

Wilson Jones, who is a guest in the home of his daughter, Mrs. H. B. Griffith, says he took pills long before the sugar coated ones came into use, but he never expects to be compelled to take as bitter a one as the Republican party will try to make him take if they nominated Roosevelt for president at Chicago. In fact, he thinks he will refuse to take it even if it is prescribed.—Hopkins (Rep.) Journal.

Gov. Dockery to Hall of Fame

Former Gov. Alexander M. Dockery has been accorded a niche in the hall of fame by one, Congressman Hensley, of the Thirtieth district of Missouri, because of his boots. "There is one matter which has many times caused me great concern, and it again is especially brought to my attention at this time by the presence of that venerable popular Missourian, Gov. Dockery," said Representative Hensley. "From the East to the West, from the North to the South, whenever the name of Gov. Dockery is mentioned, it is invariably associated with his boots. It is known throughout the country that he wears them in winter and summer alike; in fact, many persons have wondered whether or not he ever takes them off. I myself wonder whether or not Gov. Dockery had been so unfortunate as to have been separated from and bereft of his boots he would ever have attained to the prominence in the hearts and minds of Missourians everywhere as he has."—Sedalia Capital.

DOC SAMUELS GONE

Fakir Who Sold All of St. Joseph's Elite "High Class" Window Glass, Must Stay in the Pen

The former Doc (or as he lately styled himself "Prof.") Harry Samuels, late of Wichita, but now in the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, must stay there, President Wilson having refused to commute his sentence.

He was convicted of misuse of the mails in connection with the sale of an eye "medicine." Besides the sentence of one year and a day, Samuels was fined \$5,500. Samuels is 65 years old, and is said to be worth more than half a million dollars.

"Prof." or Doc is the fellow who twenty years ago dazzled the eyes of St. Joseph's elite by his flashily appointed rooms at the old Pacific and sold them window glass spectacles from \$500 to \$2,500 per pair. He cut a wide swath here in fashionable society.

PLATTE STAYED WET

And Benton County Added to the List by Being Lost to the Drys by 108 Majority

The local option election held in Platte county last Saturday resulted in a victory for the wets, the county refusing to go dry by a majority of 123, although the drys made a strenuous campaign and their workers came into the county from other points of the state.

The same result occurred in Benton county on the same day, when the wets carried that county by a majority of 108. The fact that the farmers were very busy in both counties on account of the late season, resulted in a light vote being cast.

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ONE MORE REASON

Why Con Roach Should Have the Democratic Nomination for Governor of Missouri

Jefferson City, June 4.—A girl baby weighing 11 1/4 pounds came to the home of Secretary of State Cornelius Roach this morning. This is the tenth girl baby born to Mr. and Mrs. Roach, and the fourteenth child.

Mr. Roach said tonight that if ten children constituted a good argument for the nomination for secretary of state, he believes fourteen constitute a better one for the nomination for governor. In his last campaign Mr. Roach sent a group photograph of his children to the voters, calling the children the "thirteen reasons" why their father should be elected.

How He Cured Her

There is more than one way of arriving. An Arkansas man, burdened with an eternally ailing wife, permitted her to catch him kissing the hired girl. He reports she was up in a jiffy, forgetting all her complaints, and that he has not had to pay a cent for hired help since.—Joplin Globe.

The Significant Part

A young man named Hamilton shot and killed another man named Anderson, because the latter rebuked him for swearing. There is nothing unusual about young men swearing. It is altogether too common. Nor is it strange that a group of young men indulging in profane language should be rebuked. The most significant part of the incident is contained in the stereotyped statement in the papers that Hamilton "drew his revolver and fired."—St. Louis Star.

The Annual Kansas Fake

A news dispatch from Topeka says that Kansas will need 40,000 harvest hands for the 1916 crop. A great advertising stunt this is. Every year, according to previous reports, Kansas needs thousands of harvest hands. The appeal in many instances is made for the purpose of bringing to that state about double the number of laborers that are actually needed so that grain growers may be able to secure help at a great reduced price and also to make it appear that Kansas has the biggest crop ever grown out of soil.—Carruthersville Democrat.

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PHONE MAIN 1856

Another of the Colonel's "Jokes"

Kansas City very appropriately declared the throwing of an open knife at Roosevelt's automobile a piece of dramatic fakery, but as the colonel was once playfully shot by an operator of that sort it would probably not do to put down the Kansas City incident as an advertising expedient on the part of the management of the show.—St. Louis Republic.